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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,608	11/02/2001	Wolfgang Behrens	BEHRENS 9 PCT	8303

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EXAMINER

HORTON, YVONNE MICHELE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary  
for Applications  
Under Accelerated Examination**

Application No.

09/980,608

Applicant(s)

BEHRENS, WOLFGANG

Examiner

Yvonne M. Horton

Art Unit

3635

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Since this application has been granted special status under the accelerated examination program,**  
**NO extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be permitted and a SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR**  
**REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE:**

**ONE MONTH OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER,**  
**FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION -- if this is a non-final action or a Quayle action.**  
(Examiner: For **FINAL** actions, please use PTOL-326.)

The objective of the accelerated examination program is to complete the examination of an application within twelve months from the filing date of the application. Any reply must be filed electronically via EFS-Web so that the papers will be expeditiously processed and considered. If the reply is not filed electronically via EFS-Web, the final disposition of the application may occur later than twelve months from the filing of the application.

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2006.  
2) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 3) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,16-25 and 28-30 is/are pending in the application.  
3a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
4) ☒ Claim(s) 29 and 30 is/are allowed.  
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,16-25 and 28 is/are rejected.  
6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 8) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
9) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
10) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 11) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1,18 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent #4,534,142 to DREFAHL. DREFAHL discloses a sheet of vegetation with a structural matting (12,14,16), see figure 3; arranged on a non-woven permeable underlay (10) capable of being filled with a substrate (28) and plant material (S), column 1, line 8; wherein, the underlay (10), being permeable, column 1, lines 38-40 and column 4, lines 48-52, inherently have holes. In reference to claim 18, the structural matting (16) is a looped mat. Regarding claim 25, the matting (12,14,16) and underlay (10) is reinforced as at (26) to accommodate tensile forces, column 5, line 36.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent #4,534,142 to DREFAHL. DREFAHL discloses the process for manufacturing a sheet of vegetation including a structural matting (12,14,16), see figure 3; with an underlay (10) arranged thereon and capable of being filled with a substrate (28) and a plant material (S), column 1, line 8; wherein, the underlay (10), being permeable, inherently includes holes; wherein, the sheet is rolled out flat and is then filled with the substrate.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 2,3,16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,534,142 to DREFAHL. DREFAHL discloses the basic claimed body of vegetation except for the specifics of the material characteristics such as material type, weight and number and size of holes formed therein. In reference to claim 2,3,16 and 17, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select a known material and hole size and number suitable for the use intended as an obvious matter of design choice. For instance, if it is desired to saturate the mat, larger size and greater number of holes would be use; whereas, if less saturation is needed, a smaller number and size of holes would be used. Regarding claim 19, DREFAHL discloses the use of a structural mat that is a fiber mat; however, he does not teach the use of coconut fibers, column 6, line 31. In further reference to claim 19, and in reference to claims 20-24, as far as the material of the underlay, this too is an obvious matter of design choice. Also, the selected material, as far as DREFAHL is concerned, should prevent rotting and corrosion, and should facilitate germination and should possibly be a good insulator.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 29 and 30 are allowed.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the newly revised ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

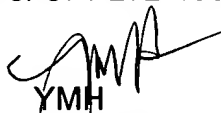
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yvonne M. Horton whose telephone number is (571) 272-6845. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am - 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Naoko Slack can be reached on (571) 272-6848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
YMH  
09/12/06

  
JEANETTE E. CHAPMAN  
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